

SENATOR BEUTLER: Please vote. Does anybody else care to vote? We are about to record. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The motion carries. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the next item on the agenda is LB 326. (Read title.) The bill was introduced by Senator Conway and was read for the first time on the 17th of January, and it was referred to the Judiciary Committee, and the Judiciary Committee reports the bill back to General File with committee amendments.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hoagland on the committee amendments.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President, colleagues, Senator Conway has brought to us a bill which has a positive fiscal note of \$150,000. This bill, if passed, will increase the general fund by \$150,000 by allowing the court clerks, the district court clerks and the county court clerks around the state to invest in interest bearing accounts out in their counties all fees and costs that are received prior to returning those fees and costs to the general fund. Currently fees and costs that are received are kept until the middle of the next month but there is no authority to invest them in interest bearing accounts. This bill would allow that. The second thing the bill does is it allows people to pay fines and traffic offenses and other kinds of citations by credit card for their convenience and for the convenience of the courts. Now the Judiciary Committee did offer two relatively minor technical amendments. One provides that these funds have to be invested in insured accounts, in deposit insured accounts of some sort, and that the insurance on the account has to be at least the amount of the deposits in the account. And, secondly, the committee recommends that we strike some language on page 3, line 21, that could be interpreted as coercing someone to give up his right to a jury trial or to a court trial on a traffic infraction should he wish to pay his fine by credit card. So with that, Mr. President, I would move the adoption of the committee amendments. Thank you.